



# THE FLASH

## City of Talent

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works and Police Departments

The Flash, which occupies the following two pages, is a publication of the City of Talent and is editorially separate from the rest of the Talent News and Review. All content and editorial choices contained in the rest of the paper are the sole responsibility of the TNR and are not in any way associated with the City of Talent. -JG

### News from the Mayor's Office

A very busy City of Talent!

The State of the City can be viewed [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org), linked under "News from the Mayor". You will find more detail about water rate increases



that are pass-on increases from our supplier.

Council discussed the Rogue Valley Transit Districts proposed route changes, as well as future amendments to our Urban Growth Boundary. Council voted to reasonably cap Community Development fees, for those seeking to build in Talent.

Many thanks for the very important work being done by Councilor Joan Dean, to update Council goals for fiscal year 2015/2016.

City Staff announced a target date for the completion of the new Community Center Construction Project, which is about the end of August 2015.

Thank you to Elizabeth Zwick and Meadowsweet Levi, for your diligent oversight of the no pesticide zone at Old Town Park. They led volunteers weeding, resulting in an "all clear" from Public Works "no spray needed". Also, thank you City Manager Tom Corrigan for continuing to explore alternatives to pesticides.

Citizens Sharon Anderson and Charles Roome are working on a plan to recruit more volunteers. They are creating an experience even more satisfying, because volunteers are valued in Talent!

Talent Public Arts Committee has exciting plans! They need a member for the board who is ready to help advance the cause with their administrative skills and drive!

As promised during my campaign, the City Charter will be reviewed! Councilor Teresa Cooke will oversee the effort as liaison to a committee of 5 qualified members. Our Charter is well designed to allow Staff to manage the daily operations. Under this excellent system, Talent has thrived. With that aside, there are several other areas of the charter that may need clarity or change. This important process is subject to transparent public hearings and most importantly, a citizen vote. Talent citizens will be heard!

Grateful to serve...  
Mayor Darby Stricker

Find commission/committee openings on [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org)

### FORUM: REDUCING THE PESTICIDE FOOTPRINT

SAVING OUR POLLINATORS AND PROTECTING OURSELVES  
PUBLIC INVITED

When: Saturday, April 4th 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

Where: Talent Public Library

Sponsored by: Together for Talent Committee, Bee City USA – Talent, Talent Garden Club, and Pollinator Project of Rogue Valley

Presenters:

McClane Duncan, ND, is a naturopathic doctor who will be talking about the harmful effects that the most common pesticides and herbicides in use today have on human health.

Richard Hilton, an entomology researcher at Oregon State University's Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, will discuss bee friendly farming and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in our local orchards and vineyards.

Cara Cruickshank has a BA in Holistic Health and a Masters in Environment & Community. She will discuss how to maintain beautiful lawns and gardens without toxic herbicides and pesticides that compromise the environment.

Refreshments will be served by the Together for Talent Committee.

Garden Club members are asked to stay for a meeting from 12:30 to 1:00.

For more information Contact: Dolly Warden, 541-897-9965 [dolly.warden17@gmail.com](mailto:dolly.warden17@gmail.com)

### News From Fire District 5

By Chief Welburn

Jackson County Fire District 5 would like to remind residents of the dangers of smoking when using home oxygen. We have had several fires recently and two directly involved the use of home oxygen and operating an open flame or ignition source. If you are using home oxygen you should not be exposing the oxygen to any type of ignition source. The two together can create a deadly mixture. One of our responses resulted in two residents being sent to the hospital for burn and inhalation injuries as well as their home sustaining significant damage. The second instance resulted in a bed igniting that in turn exposed a home oxygen tank to the flames. The result was a devastating explosion that turned the tank into shrapnel. Three softball size pieces of the tank were propelled through the second story wall of the structure and over the fire truck which was approximately 50 feet away. The blast rattled neighbors awake for blocks and displaced the trusses that support the roof. Had crews been entering the structure at this time there would have surely been significant injuries. Please adhere to these safety tips and if you know of friend, relative, or loved one who is using home oxygen while smoking or around open flames, please educate them as to the danger it places them and emergency responders to.

Please also remember to check your smoke detectors!

Be safe!

### From the Parks and Recreation Commission

Weed Pickers Needed: As you may know, there is a no-spray policy at two

of our city parks: Old Town (i.e., the Skateboard Park) and the Commons. These parks are kept weed-free through the efforts of volunteer weed pickers. At our last meeting, however, the Commission voted to allow one-time spraying at Old Town, because volunteer weeding had lagged and weeds were proliferating. Fortunately, a band of determined weeders showed up at the park the very next day, canceling the need for spraying. The Parks and Recreation Commission supports the no-spray policy, but volunteers are needed on a regular basis—not just when an emergency arises—for the policy to work. If you are interested in joining the Weed Team, please contact Elizabeth Zwick at [lizzwick@yahoo.com](mailto:lizzwick@yahoo.com).

Parks and Recreation Contact: [parkscomm@cityoftalent.org](mailto:parkscomm@cityoftalent.org).

### News from Talent PD

By Chief Mike Moran

March has many interesting reminders about police related safety issues. Of course the biggest reminder is to always be aware of your surroundings and be alert to potential dangers. Julius Caesar could have used this advice on the Ides of March.

St. Patrick's Day on the 17th is a reminder that using designated drivers or other transportation or using common sense and drinking responsibly are always good ideas when drinking alcoholic beverages. This is especially true for individuals who may not normally drink to any extent but sometimes do so on certain dates or on certain events. Unfortunately St. Paddy's is one of those dates where sometimes people forget what their limitations are.

Spring break brings to mind that before you leave on any trips it's always good to take some home security precautions. One precaution is to make sure that if you use Facebook, that you do not put out information that will be accessible to potential burglars who will know when you are out of town. Another tip is to let a trusted neighbor know when you're going to be out of town and ask them to keep an eye on your home and to call the police if there are any concerns.

### APRIL IS GREEN UP & CLEAN UP MONTH IN TALENT

\*Save these dates and watch for all the details in the next issue\*

#### April 4

Restricting the Pesticide Footprint, A Pollinator Forum 10-12:30 pm  
Wild Herb Walk 2-3 pm

#### April 11

Arbor Day Celebration 2-4 pm

#### April 18

Great Green Garden Spring Work Party 10-12 pm

#### April 25

Free Yard Debris Drop Off at Recology Transfer Station 9-4 pm (Talent Residents only)

+ Your Neighborhood Project!

For information contact Sharon Anderson 541-535-9055 or Sandra Duncan 541-630-0436

Brought to you by the City of Talent Together for Talent Committee

### News from the Talent Historical Society

By Councilor Pederson

MARCH 2015  
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Newsletter of the City of Talent  
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The Historical Society will have 300 Talent Tomato plants available at the end of April or early May. The solid date will be circulated once it is set. There will be 200 tomatoes in 4 inch pots and 100 in gallon-size. The Talent tomato is a large-growing variation of the Medford tomato that was originally grown for the cannery here in Talent - one of the things that puts Talent 'on the map!' This is a fun and delicious way to celebrate the history of Talent. I haven't been able to grow one yet myself, but I'm told they flourish in our particular climate, have some extra leaves to protect the fruit from the hot summer sun, and grow a bit bigger than Big Boy tomatoes. The last time the event was held, the tomatoes sold out quickly, so we recommend reserving one (or more) with the Historical Society, or watching for the date and coming in early!

### Unclaimed Property with the City of Talent

The following individuals have unclaimed property with the City of Talent. Any property unclaimed will be turned over to the Oregon Department of State Lands. Please contact Assistant Finance Director Kurt Sexton at 541-535-1566 with any questions or to claim your property.

Katherine Sadzewicz  
Taylor Freeborn  
Teri Davis  
Juan & Sylvia Reyes  
Julia Epperson  
Brett Schumacher  
Steve Schmitt  
Casey Leblanc  
Tom Weiner  
John Hill  
Tim Morgan  
Donald Kohal  
Erika & Michael Lowe  
Kristi Mergenthaler  
Matt Entenman  
Absolute Realty  
Steve Godwin  
Karen Bell  
Stephanie Farrell  
Jesse Parks  
Ramona Carter  
Elma Ondrey  
Derek & Rachel Shanks

### URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

For more information contact Executive Director Marla Cates, 535-6170 or [execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com](mailto:execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com).

com

**West Valley View Project** – Update: At long last, the phone and cable companies are putting their lines underground near Talent Liquor. That means the poles in the sidewalk can finally come down and the last concrete poured. We thank you for your patience during this long winter wait. We’ve also relocated TID’s gate on West Valley View so it aligns with the new alley. The exciting news is that TURA finds it has some unanticipated additional funds to work with this Spring which means we will move forward with installing the landscaping near the roundabout. We are also scheduled to build Phase 1D -- plaza and on-street parking -- this Summer which will finish off the section between the roundabout and Talent Avenue.

**Civic Center Alley** (Town Hall Parking Lot Improvements): Maybe it’s a strange name for a project, but the Civic Center Alley project was designed back in 2009 as the finishing touch to TURA’s construction of the Commons, City Hall, Home Street and library parking lot. For budgetary reasons, it was put on the back burner while we turned our attention to the West Valley View project but -- thanks to the City contributing \$45,000 toward project costs – this project now can become a reality. We are dusting off our files on this long-planned project which will put wire utilities underground, provided storm drainage, new paving, landscape wells (plantings to be determined by others), lighting, auxiliary power for event use, an enclosed trash/recycling area, one-way traffic, relocated ADA parking, and an improved loading area. Construction is anticipated in May and June.

**TURA Budget Committee Members Needed:** If you like what TURA is doing, consider being a citizen-at-large on our Budget Committee. The commitment is just 2-3 hours per year and is an excellent opportunity for someone who’d like to get involved as a citizen but can’t commit to something more time-intensive. The Budget Committee is made up of TURA board members and citizens-at-large. Call Executive Director Marla Cates, 541-535-6170 for an application and additional details.

**UTILITY BILLING NEWS**

The City of Talent updated the water ordinance in January 2015. The new ordinance took effect in February 2015. The change that will have the most impact on customers is the utility bill due date. The due date for the monthly utility bills will change to the last working day of the month. This will give customers additional time to pay their bill. The late fee will then be charged on the first business day of the following month and will show on the next month’s bill.

The other change that will have an effect on new customers is the water deposit. The amount of the water deposit for new utility customers has changed. Properties that are serviced by 5/8”-1” size meters will be required to pay a \$75.00 deposit. Properties that have meters larger than 1” will be required to pay \$150.00 deposit. New customers will need to contact the Utility Billing Department at (541) 535-1566 to verify the size of the water meter before paying their deposit.

**Below is a summary of the changes:**

- Utility Bill Due Date – Last Business Day of the Month
- Late Fee - \$10 Late Fee will be assessed on the First Business Day of the following month.
- Water Utility Deposit
  - o 5/8” – 1” meter is \$75.00

Standard Residential Meter size

- o Over 1” meter is \$150.00

Larger Commercial Meter size

**Equal Payment Enrollment**

It is that time of year again! Water utility customers that have an account in good standings have the opportunity to enroll in our “Equal Payment Plan” program. Monthly payments will be calculated using your previous year’s usage. Equal payment amounts will be reviewed every 6 months, to determine if the established monthly payment is sufficient to cover the cost of actual usage. Please contact the Utility Billing Department for more information 541-535-1566.

**New for 2015**

Starting in 2015 customers will not be required to sign up annually for Equal Payments. When you complete the 2015 equal payment form, your account will remain on equal payments until you request cancellation of the plan or no longer meet the requirements.

**WANTED- COMMITTEE & COMMISSIONER MEMBERS!**

**Talent Public Art Committee (TPAC)**

Currently TPAC is looking for 3-4 volunteers for specific projects in this exciting new year and/or to become TPAC members to enjoy a greater hands-on involvement in developing the arts in Talent. So whether you’re just interested, ready to go or you’re looking to support the arts with your time or just financially, give us a call. Call Ron Hodgdon at 541.535.1620 or email: [hodg1027@mind.net](mailto:hodg1027@mind.net). Please specify your name, contact information and TPAC related interest to be contacted.

**Bee City USA**

Education on Pollination. Meeting dates and times to be determined. For more information contact Dolly Warden at 541-897-0065 or email: [dolly.warden17@gmail.com](mailto:dolly.warden17@gmail.com)

For other questions regarding the vacancies please contact Melissa Huhtala at City Hall: 541-535-1566 or email: [Melissa@cityoftalent.org](mailto:Melissa@cityoftalent.org). You can stop by City Hall for an application or find one online at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org)

**ADHOC Committee for Talents City Charter**

The City of Talent is looking for 2 Citizens to review the City Charter. The City Charter is a legal document that establishes a municipality. Meeting dates and times to be determined.

For other questions regarding the vacancies please contact Melissa Huhtala at City Hall:

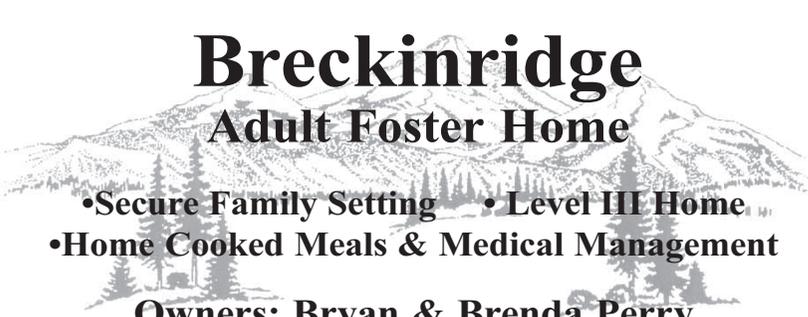
541-535-1566 or email: [Melissa@cityoftalent.org](mailto:Melissa@cityoftalent.org). You can stop by City Hall for an application or find one online at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org)

**HARVEST FESTIVAL 2015**

Mark your calendars!! The 2015 Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, October 3, from 7 AM- 4 PM! For over 40 years this has been an annual event in the City of Talent. The Harvest Festival brings families, and community together. The Harvest Festival is open to the public with no admission.

The Harvest Festival Committee has already been hard at work to make this a Festival to remember! The Committee is brainstorming ideas for a parade theme. We would love the Community’s input! If you have any suggestions or are interested in becoming a member of the Committee please contact Melissa Huhtala at: [melissa@cityoftalent.org](mailto:melissa@cityoftalent.org).

You can also come by Talent City Hall or call (541) 535-1566 or more information.



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